

PLEASE NOTE: This transcript has been edited to remove duplicate questions and to protect personal information.

I was born in 1947. when do i apply for soc sec benefits? who do i apply to? what info do i need to give to them?

** SSA 1: The earliest age that a person can apply for Social Security benefits is 3 months prior to his 62nd birthday. A person born in 1947 can apply anytime now. You can call or email us at FBU.Manila@ssa.gov. The applicant needs to give SSN, name and date of birth. If he wants to apply for retirement benefits he will need to give us information about his work as well. If married, we will need information on marriages as well as any children below 18 that he/she may have.*

vet benefits - i was a 2 yr draftee in late 1969. served in germany. i used my school benefits. what else would i be entitled to and where can i go to find more info?

** RAO Thailand (VA): I believe you are still technically eligible for VA Home Loan program and possibly VA medical support for service connected VA rated disabilities or other VA medical support based on individual circumstances. You can check www.va.gov or <http://www.jusmagthai.com/rao.html>.*

The Philippines SSA office has advised me that I should apply for retirement benefits in advance of the initial entitlement date by perhaps 4-5 months. Do you concur with this?

** ACS BKK 1: SSA will accept the application only 3 month prior to your birthday. You can send an inquiry to acsbkk@state.gov for the application.*

Medicare pays nothing for medical expenses incurred while living outside of the USA, yet military retirees over the age of 65 must pay a monthly premium for Medicare part B in order to avail themselves of Tricare benefits. Why is that?

** RAO Thailand (VA): Sorry I can't give a better response, but it is a TRICARE requirement. This TRICARE webpage discusses it: <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/overview/LearnAboutPlansAndCosts/TRICAREForLife?>*

Are there immediate plans underway to implement VA or Medicare in Thailand ?

** RAO Thailand (VA): We are not aware of any.*

Is it customary for Social Security Admin. to send Form: SSA7162 to X pats? The letter demanding the form be filled out and submitted or else benefits would be suspended was sent via local post. I did not receive it - of course at the assistance of the Embassy - b/c I did not give SSA a current mailing address. I wish they used email, but apparently they will not. Is this form sent often to X pats?

** SSA 1: I think this is the Foreign Enforcement Questionnaire that you are talking about. The form is used to solicit the current contact information for our claimants as well as ensure that foreign deductions are applied correctly. This is sent out by our office in the US and failure to return the form will indeed result in suspension of benefits. As you can now see, it is very important to inform Social Security of your*

current mailing address. This is sent either annually or semi-annually depending on your citizenship and/or country of residence.

I turn 62 in Dec. when do I have to file and can I do it here from Thailand?

** ACS BKK 1(privately): You can apply 3 months prior to your birthday. Please send an inquiry to our email address at acsbkk@state.gov in September. We can send the form to you.*

Is there anything we as VA or Medicare recipients, can do to help get a healthcare program started in Southeast Asian Countries?

** RAO Thailand (VA): Sorry, but we don't think so.*

Can I have my SS checks sent to my Bangkok bank account?

** ACS BKK 1: Yes you can contact Bangkok Bank head office at 02 2301323 for more information. It has to be a special account to receive a benefit.*

I started drawing S.S. in Aug. 2011. I was automatically signed up for Medicare when I turned 65 in Feb. 2012. Will I be receiving a Medicare Card through the mail?

** ACS BKK 1: Yes, The card will be sent to the address that you put on the application.*

Does my Thai wife get Social Security Benefits?

** SSA 1: Non-US citizen spouses can get Social Security Benefits if they have attained age 62 and were able to reside in the U.S. for at least 5 years.*

Can you have your Social Security check deposited into a Thai Bank Account?

** ACS BKK 1: Yes only Bangkok bank can do this service, please contact Bangkok Bank Head office at 02 230 1323 for more information.*

Social Security: I'm currently schedule for a Social Security Disability Hearing on the 20 Mar. If the SSD Judges denies my current SSD Appeal and I decide to appeal the decision to a higher court, can I still file for regular social security on my 62nd birthday Oct 2012 without affecting my Social Security Disability Higher Court Appeal?

** ACS BKK 1: Yes, no problem. Please send an application for retirement benefit to us 3 months prior your date of birth.*

I'M A U.S. CITIZEN LIVING IN THAILAND WITH A THAI WIFE. I RECEIVE SS BENEFITS; IS SHE ENTITLED TO ANY SS BENEFITS?

** ACS BKK 1: Your wife has to be 62 years old to entitle for spouse benefit.*

I am only receiving 2/3 of my Social Security Benefits. When I questioned why, I was threatened that it could be less if I challenged it. Why is this happening?

** SSA 1: If you start drawing SS benefits prior to your full retirement age (65 or 66) then your benefits will be reduced for age. This is probably the reason for your deduction. But it is not true that your benefits will be reduced if you ask for an explanation.*

I am filing my 2011 US taxes and I understand I have to pay taxes on my SS and Medicare even if I leave abroad? I would like to know if there are any deductibles I could file to lower the taxes I owe

** ACS BKK 1: Unfortunately, that we cannot provide the information about taxes. Please go to our website to get information on tax assistance.*

http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/acs_taxes.html

Can a man claim part of an ex-spouse's Soc Sec under these circumstances. They had been married for more than 10 years. He had to quit working at 55 due to a stroke and began receiving Soc Sec Disability at 59. She has continued working and is now 61. He will be 66 in September. She is an Accountant and most likely has made more than the husband but he is not sure. She has a full retirement package and his income is solely what he receives in disability. What are the rules about income earnings? Does it matter who made more when they retired?(married in 1976 and final divorce papers were in 1993)

** ACS BKK 1: You may try to send an application first. Please send an inquiry to acsbkk@state.gov so we can send the form to you.*

If you have medicare A and B, are any medical expenses covered abroad?

** ACS BKK 1: Unfortunately Medicare doesn't cover people who live abroad.*

I am now living in Bangkok and have not been examined by my VA doctors since April/May 2010 when I last returned to the US. I am 83 years of age and want to continue living here. I have no residence in the US, only a mailing address. Is there any way to get my physical condition updated without returning all the way to the US Mainland as I am on 7 meds daily and have a Pacemaker for permanent A-Fib

** RAO Thailand (VA): Not sure exactly what your concerns are. If you have immediate concerns please get a physical at one of the well respected local international hospitals. If you are VA disability rated, suggest you request a update physical through VARO, Pittsburgh or the VA Foreign Medical Program in Denver. You can find additional information at www.jusmagthai.com/rao.html*

After my death, what should my wife do to report and does she receive my benefits?

** ACS BKK 1: Your wife should contact US Embassy Bangkok as soon as possible for reporting the death of American Citizen and we will assist her for the benefit if she is eligible for.*

I applied for Social Security benefits on November 23, 2011. I spoke to the SS Administration and was told there was no additional information required to process my claim. My claim is still classified as pending and I have not been able to speak with anyone at SS or the Manila Embassy about my status. Can you help me?

** ACS BKK 1: Did you apply online? We would recommend you to send an email to fbu.manila@ssa.gov to see your status. Normally the whole process takes about 3-6 month.*

May I receive veteran health benefits living on a retirement visa in Thailand?

** RAO Thailand (VA): VA veteran health benefits overseas are ONLY for VA rated service connected disabilities or family members under certain circumstances.*

When applying, does she need to provide copies of her naturalization certificate and passport? Do we have to provide our marriage certificate?

** ACS BKK 1: If your wife would like to apply for benefit, normally SSA will request for all documents as you mentioned.*

I understand that is possible for a person to get higher social security if a DD214 is presented to SS, is that true? If so what do I have to do to get it?

** ACS BKK 2: I am not aware of the requirement for such a form, but you can put in your enquiry and send it to Fbu.manila@ssa.gov for further clarification.*

I will be 66 in September. I'm holding off until then to draw full SS benefits. When should I apply? - Thanks.

** ACS BKK 1: You can apply in June, please send an inquiry to us at acsbkk@state.gov so we can send the form to you.*

My benefits were frozen the beginning of Feb. When I phoned SSA they said I did not return a form they sent. They said they would send another, and that was five weeks ago. What should I do?

** ACS BKK 1: Please send an inquiry to us at acsbkk@state.gov, we can send the form to your email.*

Is the FBU.Manila@ssa.gov also the contact point of expats living in Thailand that want to apply for social security benefits? Thank you.

** ACS BKK 1: Yes, it is.*

I recently notified the VA regional office of my new address in Thailand and was told that the computer did not have the necessary programming to register a foreign address. Is this true or was the representative not up to date?

** ACS BKK 1: Please send an inquiry to acsbkk@state.gov with your file number we can forward it to VA for you.*

My husband has reached the age to apply for his social security. However, he has had his surname legal changed. How does he correct his name on his Social Security account and apply? Can this be processed through the American Embassy?

** ACS BKK 2: Is he a Thai citizen or an American citizen? You can ask him to come to the Embassy to have his information updated.*

I started drawing S.S. in Aug. 2011 (age 64). I received S.S. notification that I was automatically signed up for Medicare when I turned 65. Will I receive a Medicare Card in the mail?

** ACS BKK 1: Yes, you should receive a card in the mail.*

Can a widow of an American receive SS benefits if she resides in Thailand and had lived with her husband in the states for 28 years? She had a green card and has a SS number.

** ACS BKK 1: Yes, She has to be at least 60 years old to apply for widow benefit. Please send an inquiry to acsbkk@state.gov, so we can send a form to her.*

Can you have your Social Security check deposited into a Thai Bank Account

** ACS BKK 1: Yes. However, only Bangkok Bank can do the service. Please contact Bangkok Bank head office at 02 230 1323 for more information.*

i want to know when can i retire with full benefits. i know i could have retired at 62, but now i am 64 and in nov will be 65.

** ACS Laos: When you are 65*

I'm 63 and my son has been collecting SSI ever since I turned 62. If I were to have more children in the future will they receive social security benefits as well?

** ACS BKK 1: Yes, if you are receiving benefit at the moment, your children who are under 16 also eligible for children benefit.*

Who is the point of contact for VA Medical Assistance overseas?

** RAO Thailand (VA): VA Foreign Medical Program is where I would start.*

I am German Citizen, age 80, live in Germany and receive Soc Sec benefits there.-- If I move to Thailand will I continue to get benefits? 100% ? My wife is Thai, living with me in Germany. She will receive Soc Sec benefits there when she is about 65. If she returns to Thailand, will she receive benefits? 100%?

** ACS BKK 2: You will continue to receive SS benefits once you relocate to Bangkok. Please get yourself signed up for a direct deposit account at Bangkok Bank. They will then cooperate with the SSA office and have your payment directly deposited into your account here in Bangkok.*

I filed a claim adjustment to my service connected disabilities more than two years ago and have gotten only that my case was pending. How do I check the status?

** RAO Thailand (VA): Go to www.va.gov, then to Contact Us then to ask a question and complete the form.*

I want to know about 'ex-spouse social security benefits. My married ended after 29 years. She will be 62 in late June and is 100% disabled and is on Disability Benefits. When she applies for early benefits, i understand that nothing will change in regards to her monthly benefit. In early June, I turn 60. Once she applies, am i eligible to apply for the ex-spousal benefit? If not, when am I. And if i am, when I turn 62, i am I still eligible to apply for my own early retirement benefits? If I can apply for my own benefit, the ex can then reapply for ex -spousal benefit at the higher rate, due to my earnings? Does the Windfall Act prevent me from receiving my social security benefit, because I am receiving 100% Service Connected Disability? If I can get the social security benefit, can it be direct deposited in my bank account here in Thailand, as I live here full time? Also, does my living here full time, create any issues of eligibility to receive the benefit not living in USA?

** SSA 1: No. Age requirement for divorced spouse is 62*

If not, when am I.

Divorced spouses can apply for benefits at age 62

And if i am, when I turn 62, i am I still eligible to apply for my own early retirement benefits?

**You can still apply for benefits. You cannot get both benefits though. Social Security will only pay the higher amount. (as divorced spouse vs. your own retirement)*

If I can apply for my own benefit, the ex can then reapply for ex -spousal benefit at the higher rate, due to my earnings?

**YES, if you earned more, then your ex-wife can apply on your record as well.*

Does the Windfall Act prevent me from receiving my social security benefit, because I am receiving 100% Service Connected Disability?

**Are you talking about Service Connected Disability benefits with the VA? This benefit is not affected by the Windfall Act.*

If I can get the social security benefit, can it be direct deposited in my bank account here in Thailand, as I live here full time?

**Yes, You can receive benefits at an account with Bangkok Bank.*

Also, does my living here full time, create any issues of eligibility to receive the benefit notliving in USA?

**Your non-US citizen spouse is eligible to apply for benefits. In fact, if she meets the age and relationship requirement to you, she may be entitled to benefits as well. It will be SUSPENDED though, if has does not have 5 year residency in the U.S.*

52. Do you have the table or figures handy that show how long one must live past age 70 (someone who didn't take benefits until age 70) to claim equal Social Security benefits compared to someone who begin benefits early, at age 62?

** SSA 1: The comparison date and amount will depend on many things such as the applicants date of birth, amount of contribution into the Social Security system and date of filing a claim. You may want to try our online calculators at: Social Security Online Calculator. We can also compute this for you but you have to give us your personal information.*

My wife has her permanent resident card which does not expire until 2019, she had to come back to Thailand due to her mothers brain surgery which left her totally bed ridden. We will go back to USA after she dies. In checking w/ homeland security she will have to get a returning resident visa which comes from the "US consulate" What is the time element, the cost , and the steps to follow. Thank You

** SSA 1: For visa based questions please check out our website:
<http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/visas.html>. THANKS!*

My child was born late last year. I received a passport and applied for a SSAN in Jan. How long does it take the SSAN to arrive the once the application is submitted? Also, do I have to bring my child to JUSMAGTHAI to enroll her in DEERS?

** RAO Thailand (VA): Can't answer how long the SSAN takes to arrive. Your child's birth certificate with certified English translation is all you need to register her in DEERS.*

I've heard that SS benefits are not taxable after age 65, is that true? - what about before age 65?

** SSA 1: Paying income tax on your Social Security benefit is not dependent on your age. It depends if you have other substantial income (such as wages, self-employment, interest, dividends and other taxable income that must be reported on your tax return) in addition to your benefits.*

Please refer to Benefits Planner at our website for the earnings range when you must pay income tax.

Can I get my forms for reporting SSA benefits sent to me online?

** We can certainly accommodate your request online. Please send your request for the forms you need to our email address at ACKBKK@state.gov and we will forward them to you within 24 hours.*

Are there any benefits, SSI or IRS deductions, for adopting a Thai child?

** SSA 1: Your best bet for a tax related question is to check out www.irs.gov or to use a tax advisor. Thanks.*

Where is the closes place to Tahiland for V.A. medical care?

** RAO Thailand (VA): The Philippines has a VA medical clinic but only for residents of the Philippines. We've heard of people who did get care and people who were turned away. There is a VA facility in Guam.*

What are the effects on my retirement and service connected disabilities if I decide to pursue a claim from SSDI for the same disabilities that have stopped me from working?

** RAO Thailand (VA): None.*

Why can't I use my Medicare benefits in Thailand. If I pay a premium for Part A, B, C and D every month?

** RAO Thailand (VA): Medicare is not valid overseas.*

Is the ban on providing SSA benefits to my Cambodia resident 4 and 7 yr old kids (USA Cits) still in effect? (due to lack of a *vital records* exchange treaty with the USA). In my case, the award is \$250/ child / month. I am NOT about to purchase an SUV with these funds. The amounts in question would cover their daily food and not much else. (We are financially stuck in Sihanoukville, Cambodia; when the children reach age 16 and will be due to receive a lump sum SSA. distribution, I doubt that I will be alive. The children may have expired USA passports at that time; my wife and kids may be clueless. Should the children be registered bio-metrically at the PP Embassy?) Any Feedback?

** SSA 1: Unfortunately, payment process for Cambodia has very stringent requirements. One of the rules is that Social Security cannot release benefits if the claimant has a representative payee. Since your kids cannot be paid directly at this time, I'm afraid they will be kept in suspense.*

Can a divorced man claim any part of his ex-wifes benefits?

** SSA 1: Yes, as long as the amount of the man's benefits on his own record does not exceed one half of the ex-wife's primary insurance amount.*

I started drawing S.S. in Aug. 2011 (age 64). I received S.S. notification that I was automatically signed up for Medicare when I turned 65. Will I receive a Medicare Card via the mail?

** SSA 1: Claimants who attain age 65 are automatically enrolled in Medicare. You should get a Medicare Card in the mail.*

I misplaced my SS card and need another; what is the procedure for that?

** ACS BKK 2: Please come to the Embassy to submit the SS-5 form along with your passport. We will then certify a copy of your passport and send it to the Social Security Administration for further processing. Generally, it takes about a couple of months for the replacement card to be sent back to your home address.*

in the event my prescriptions are renewed at some point in time , how do I get them, as since Bush 2 the VA discontinued sending them overseas and the Post Office says only the vendor can mail them outside of the country. And most friends are afraid of violating some law by carrying them over for me.

** RAO Thailand (VA): Presuming your meds are va service connected, purchase them locally and submit claim for reimbursement with the VA Foreign Medical Program.*

why can't i get access to ssa.gov?

** ACS BKK 2: Some IP addresses are restricted. You can try a different computer and also www.socialsecurity.gov*

Can I have my social security benefits check deposited directly into a Thai bank?

** ACS BKK 2: You can do so. The only bank authorized to handle this specific type of money transfer for Social Security benefits is BANGKOK BANK. You can visit Bangkok Bank at any branches and ask them to sign you up for a direct deposit account.*

Does this residence requirement for foreign wives mean that the five years must be contiguous?

** SSA 1: NO. It can be cumulative. It is important to differentiate from "residence" and "physical presence". Social Security cannot count several entries in the US on a tourist visa. We can count though, several entries in the US for a permanent resident alien.*

Can I undertake processing at the next ACS upcountry outreach session rather than coming to Bangkok?

** ACS BKK 1: I would recommend you to send an inquiry to us at acsbkk@state.gov. Consular outreach has limited services available.*

I'm in Thailand, misplaced my SS card, what's necessary to get a replacement?

** ACS BKK 1: Please come to US Embassy bangkok with your passport. We can provide you the form and will submit the application to get the replacement card for you.*

Why can't I use my Medicare benefits in Thailand? If I pay a premium for Part A, B, C and D every month?

** ACS BKK 2: Medicare only covers your medical expenses in the U.S. If you happen to be in Thailand for your medical treatment, you will not be insured by whichever Medicare you sign up for. There is, however, Tricare that only those working for the military can be entitled to. Please visit the JUSMAG website at www.JUSMAGTHAI.com for further details.*

Can you elaborate on "foreign deductions" from SSA payments? Is there an advantage to maintaining a US residency?

** SSA 1: Your benefits may be reduced or even suspended when you are residing outside the US if (1) you go back to work and (2) if you are not a US citizen.*

It is advantageous to maintain US residency if the claimant is not a US citizen.

I will be 66 years old December 30 this year. Should I apply for benefits through acsbkk or FBU Manila?

** ACS BKK 2: If you are a long-time resident of Bangkok and don't have a plan to reside elsewhere, please swing by the US Embassy to submit your claim for retirement benefits. We can also send you the*

claimant information sheet via email if that's more convenient for you. Please send your request to us via email at ACSBKK@state.gov.

I did not get a letter from SSA this year regarding the amount I can collect when I reach 62, how can I find out about that?

Please do send an inquiry to fbu.manila@ssa.gov for getting the information.

Can I get form ssa7162 from Chiang Mai consulate?

* SSA 1: The easiest way to get it is probably www.ssa.gov. Hopefully that should save you a trip.

My husband passed away at 56. I am 55. Can I apply for a death benefit? If yes, how?

* ACS BKK 2: You can submit your claim to the US Embassy for Widow benefits once you reach the age of 60

i want to know when can i retire with full benefits. i know i could have retired at 62, but i didn't. i want to retire with 'full benefits' but now i am 64 and in nov will be 65. when should i apply?

* ACS BKK 2: You will be receiving full benefits when you are 66 years old. If that proves to be impractical for you, you can go ahead and submit your claim for reduced retirement benefits at the age of 62.

My husband has reached the age to apply for his social security. He is a Thai citizen who lived and worked in the states for over 20 yrs. He has legally changed his surname through the Thai Court. How does he correct his Social Security account name? Can this be handled at the American Embassy?

* ACS BKK 2: If he wants to notify this name amendment to the Social Security Administration, he can do so by submitted the updated SS-5 form along with the necessary court documents. We will send the signed form to the SSA office for further action.

I sent in a medicare sign-up form for plan A in Dec. after I turned 65 and have received no acknowledgement or form. How long does that usually take?

* ACS BKK 1: Please send an inquiry to fbu.manila@ssa.gov and ask them to check your Medicare status.

Does emailing FBU.Manila@ssa.gov work for those of us living in Thailand to start SS benefits? Is there a secure online form that we can fill in at ssa.gov?

* ACS BKK 2: Once in Thailand, you have to submit your claim to the US Embassy in Bangkok and we will initially take your claim and forward it on to the SSA office in the Philippines for further action.

My first wife died at age 63, and I started receiving SS at age 62, I am entitled to an increase in benefits as a result of her death?

** SSA 1: It depends. If your benefits as the divorced widow are higher than your benefits on your retirement account, then you may see an increase.*

As an American citizen living in Thailand, can I apply for SS retirement benefits on line or do I have to submit application to the Manila Embassy?

** ACS BKK 2: As you are residing in Thailand, it would be much appreciated if you could send your request to us via email at acsbkk@state.gov. We will send the claimant information sheet to you and you can pass it back to us for further processing.*

I want to get my prescriptions renewed - must I return to the US for non service related meds which I was receiving?

** RAO Thailand (VA): VA only covers service connected disability medications overseas. You could purchase them locally.*

How long after enrolling in medicare does it usually take to get a card?

** ACS BKK 2: You can actually track the status of its delivery by sending your enquiry to Fbu.manila@ssa.gov.*

I turn 66 in early Dec. I will be in the US in Oct. Can I apply for social security at that time or do I have to apply through Manila? I reside permanently in Thailand

** ACS BKK 2: You can apply for Social Security benefits online through the Social Security Website at www.socialsecurity.com. The website itself is quite self-explanatory and will prove useful.*

Just as preliminary information, what are the steps in applying for SS retirement benefits? What documentary evidence must be presented?

** ACS Laos: you need to fill out claimant information sheet, and get a copy of passport and ssa card to the nearest Embassy or consulate.*

If we make an appointment with the embassy, can it all be handled at one time. He paid in under his birth name (the same as his passport, irs tax returns and etc.

** ACS BKK 2: Yes. One appointment covers every service you want to get done at the Embassy.*

SSA supposedly remits my monthly SS payment to Bangkok Bank, NY on the 3rd. If the 3rd falls on a Saturday/Sunday - does SSA remit my payment the working day prior to the 3rd. In January 2012, I did not get my SS payment from BKK Bank until the 6th of January 2012. BBB Bank does not work on the week-end.

** SSA 1: Yes - the working day prior. However, Bangkok bank is a correspondent bank – meaning the US treasury remits the money to their US counterpart on the 3rd. The date that your account will be credited will depend on how fast the US counterpart can transmit the funds to the local bank.*

can a retiree use Medicare overseas?

* ACS LAOS No you can't – medicare is only available domestically.

I HAVE ALREADY ASKED ABOUT A WIDOW RECEIVING SS BENEFITS BASED ON HER DECEASED SPOUSES EARNINGS BUT WILL SHE RECEIVE THAT MONEY HERE OR IS SHE JUST ELIGIBLE FOR IT? So far I have seen letter stating she was eligible for it but because she lives in Thailand she would not be paid it. Why? She is over 70 years old.

** SSA 1: There is no age limit to the 5-years residency requirement for non-US citizen claimants. It affects all kinds of beneficiaries: spouses, widows, children, etc.*

Is it possible to sign up for the VA eBenefit program from Thailand?

** RAO Thailand (VA): Yes*

I have already submitted my application online and been told that no additional information is required. Are you saying that I have to submit another application at the Embassy?

** ACS BKK 1: Normally online application is for people who live in United States. If you are in Thailand we would recommend you to contact SSA in Manila to update your application status. Please send an email to them at fbu.manila@ssa.gov.*

let me seek clarification: once my ex turns 62, am I at age 60 eligible for ex spouse benefit based on her earning? If yes, when I turn 62 can I then apply for my own benefit based on my earnings record? Once I apply for my own benefit, is the ex eligible to apply for her own ex spousal benefit based on my higher earnings?

** ACS BKK 2: Once you turn 62, you can go ahead and apply for your own retirement benefits, turning in your claim to the US Embassy. Pertaining to the benefits your wife might be entitled to, I suggest you to look into the possibilities of getting her ex-spousal benefits by asking one of the representatives in Manila. You can reach them at Fbu.manila@ssa.gov.*

If I should apply for early retirement SS benefits at age 62, is my also receiving VA Disability Compensation considered Double Dipping?

** ACS BKK 2: You certainly can submit your claim for retirement benefits, but I would like to refer you to the JUSMAG website to look into how you get the ball rolling for service-connected disability benefits. Here's the Website: www.JUSMAGTHAI.com.*

I am 65 and submitted a social security enrollment form in Dec. A phone call with Manila was scheduled but I never received one. In the meantime, I have an opportunity to work a bit more. Can I withdraw my application and submit it again when I am 66?

** ACS BKK 2: Please send more details to ACSBkk@state.gov and we will help you secure a phone interview with the claim representative in the Philippines.*

Could you please send the various websites you refer to in this chat? e.g. US Embassy Bangkok, SSA stuff for Manila, etc.? Thank you.

** ACS BKK 1: US Embassy Bangkok - bangkok.usembassy.gov or email at acsbkk@state.gov SSA Manila email address is fbu.manila@ssa.gov*

Regarding the five-year US residence requirement for a non-US spouse to receive SS benefits (in addition to being 62) ... do they take into account years the spouse was residing abroad while her husband was serving active duty military?

** ACS BKK 2: Your spouse should be in the U.S. for five years to be entitled to spouse benefits. Her presence in the U.S. is crucial and will be taken into account. Her time spent with you abroad while you were on active duty might not be considered as her time in the U.S. For further clarification, please send your enquiry to the SSA office in the Philippines at Fbu.manila@ssa.gov.*

If you are a Thai National, and not a U.S. citizen, and have been collecting social security. You move back to Thailand, and receive a letter that your benefits have been suspended since you are no longer residing in the United States. How do you get your benefits reinstated?

** ACS Laos Please send your report to FBU Manila@state.gov to request them to reinstate your payment.*

The VA Foreign Medical Program in Denver has told me that the Regional Medical Center in the Philippines will treat VA Disabilities of Record. Is that provision still valid?

** RAO Thailand (VA): We don't know - some people have been treated and some people have been turned away. Call them to find out if they will treat you.*

When I was in the US last year I went to a local SSA office to ask about my surviving Thai wife's benefits in the event of my death. They said she would not be eligible to receive any of my benefits unless she was living in the US. Where can I find all the written details about how she would be eligible for benefits.

** SSA 1: You may refer our publication *Your Payments While You are Outside the US* for more information about this: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10137.html#a0=1>*

We will return from a visit to the US in April. I would like to stop by the Embassy and get a form for income for a marriage extension. Do I need an appointment, or can I just stop in?

** SSA 1: You need an appointment: <http://bangkok.usembassy.gov/service.html>*

Thanks!

I have not had a social security card since I was young and I will be 60 this year and have just always remembered the number. Do you need the card to apply for it or is just having your number memorized sufficient?

** ACS BKK 2: you don't need the card to apply for benefits. The number would suffice for Social Security benefits purpose.*